



The CURRENT

STONY CREEK'S HOME AND SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

From the Principal's Desk

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our Stony Creek families! We are here at school preparing for your child's arrival, and as we approach opening day, the excitement at Stony Creek is building.

Included in this mailing is your child's class placement and teacher assignment for the 2011-2012 school year. In addition, this edition of *TheCURRENT* contains a good deal of information about your child's upcoming start of the school year. Please be sure to read this edition carefully as it will help to smooth your child's return to Stony Creek.



And now, with the new school year ready to begin, how can you keep up with all of the news and activities at Stony Creek? You can expect two publications, both of which will be available electronically. This is the September edition of *TheCURRENT*, our official home and school monthly newsletter; it is sent out electronically at the beginning of each month to those registered on SchoolMessenger and is also posted on our school website as well. In addition, *This Week at Stony Creek* is a weekly electronic publication that will be sent directly to your home via e-mail. In order to receive this popular newsletter, you are asked to contact Tracy Suchodolski at such991@comcast.net, and she will add you to her e-mail distribution list.

As we open the 2011-2012 school year, we have a total of 365 students. Once again, welcome to Stony Creek. I am confident that your child and your family will enjoy the excitement of the 2011-2012 school year. Welcome back!

Sincerely,

Gary W. Abbamont

UPCOMING EVENTS AT STONY CREEK

AUGUST

- 23 Kindergarten Adventure 6:30 PM
- 29 First Day of School (Grades 1-5, Early Dismissal)
- 29 K Orientation (Student & Parent), 1:30 PM
- 30 Kindergarten Students w/Last Names Between A-M
Report to School
- 31 Kindergarten Students w/Last Names Between N-Z
Report to School
- 31 Back to School Picnic, 5:30 PM

SEPTEMBER

- 2-5 Holiday - Labor Day Weekend
- 15 Back to School Night, 7 PM
- 29 Schools Closed
- 30 School Pictures

Summer Challenge & Supply List

All of our students were provided a Summer Challenge to complete over the course of the summer. Has your child completed his or her challenge? For more information, please go to our school's



website:

http://www.wsdweb.org/cf_news/view.cfm?newsid=188.

Once at this page, click on *Summer Challenge* for your child's new grade level. Not only will you find the "challenge," but you will also find the supply list for the coming school year.

School Bus Assignments and Schedule

Goodbye Summer!



One of the frequently asked questions has to do with our students' school bus assignments - the bus number, the bus stop, and the

time of bus pick up and drop off. Where do you find this information? You will find the information on the district web site: <http://www.wsdweb.org>. Once on the home page, click the District Information Tab, then click District Services, and finally click Transportation. This information is usually available during the third week of August. If necessary, you also have the contact information for Marie Carsillo, Director of Transportation at that site.

PTO Sponsored Back to School Picnic August 31st at 5:30 PM

Be sure to join us on Wednesday, August 31st at 5:30 PM for the PTO-sponsored Back to School Picnic. Feel free to bring your own picnic blanket and dinner or purchase your dinner here at school. This is a great opportunity to meet some of the other Stony Creek families and members of our staff.



Back to School Night Program for Parents September 15 at 7 PM



Our Back to School Night Program is scheduled for September 15th and will begin promptly at 7 PM and conclude by 9 PM. The evening will begin in our Cafetorium and will be followed by a classroom session where you will

be able to meet your child's teacher and learn about this year's program. In addition, our Encore and Specialist Faculty will be available to share information about their programs. Be sure to mark your calendar and join us for this special evening.

Where In The World Is Stony Creek?

All 4th & 5th graders are invited on an adventure around the world without ever leaving school.

If you want to learn more about our world, this adventure is for you! We will have an optional School Geo Bee to celebrate our worldly knowledge.

We will meet on Wednesday mornings before school. Students will need to be dropped off at school between 7:45 AM as our adventure begins at 7:50 AM. Letters of invitation and permission slips will be



sent home early in September. The program will be on September 14 and conclude on December 14. If you would like to grab a "passport" and join us as we take our children around the world, please contact: Audra Havrilla (alinnea2000@yahoo.com) or Abbey Krain (abbeykrain@gmail.com)

What's New on Campus?

When you arrive at Stony Creek this fall, be sure to look for the following enhancements to our campus!

- Newly Installed Sound System in Our Cafetorium (Paid for by The Stony Creek PTO)
- Newly Sanded and Varnished Wood Floors in Our Cafetorium and Gymnasium
- Fresh Painted Gymnasium
- New Safety Fencing on Our Playground
- Completely Renovated Library with New Shelving and Furnishings
- New Kindergarten Cubbies in Rooms B1 and B2 (Paid for by The Stony Creek PTO)
- Additional New Chairs in Our Classrooms

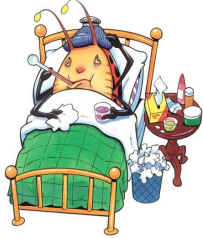
Who's New on Campus?

As we open the 2011-2012 school year, we welcome the following new members of the Stony Creek Team.

- *Dana Baker* joins our team of Child-specific Assistants.
- *Ilene Brent* joins our team of Child-specific Assistants.
- *Deborah Kowalchuk* will be our new Art Specialist at Stony Creek. Mrs. Kowalchuk will be teaching all of the Stony Creek students.
- *Meghann McKenna* joins our fourth grade team, assuming the teaching responsibilities for Alan Rothman during his leave of absence and sabbatical.
- *Carol Mulligan* will be our new Physical Therapist.
- *Alessandra Valerio* will be our new Speech and Language Therapist at Stony Creek. Rebecca Purring has moved to Lower Gwynedd Elementary School.

For Your Information

In this section of TheCURRENT, I have included some of the important day to day reminders about the procedures in place at Stony Creek.



ABSENCE

When your child is going to be absent from school, you are expected to call our school (215.619.8108) and report the absence. Include the name of your child, teacher's name, and reason for absence. This should be done the night before or prior to 8 in the morning. Also, be sure to send in a note when your child returns to school. A note is required if the absence is to be considered an "excused" absence.



BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are special days for our students, and we will honor them with a short celebration to mark the day. Parents are expected to be mindful of the district's nutritional policy as well as the dietary/allergy restrictions of students in the classroom. Class birthday recognitions are short (ten minutes) and limited to the classroom community. Teachers will generate a list of healthy snacks that appeal to the class and communicate this list to parents. Parents are asked to drop off the treats in the main office, and these treats will be delivered to the classroom by our staff. Small Gift Items/Goody Bags/Bouquets of Flowers/Balloons are not permitted. For obvious reasons, birthday party invitations are not to be distributed at school.

CHANGE OF DISMISSAL PLAN

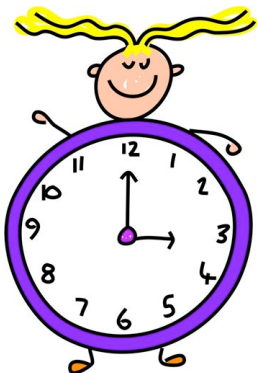
If a parent/guardian wishes to change a student's mode of dismissal (i.e.- walker, bus rider, parent pick up, etc.) it is necessary to write a note to the classroom teacher explaining the change. However, parents/guardians are reminded that students may ride only that bus to which they have been assigned. The teacher will forward the note to the office where it will be kept on file. Requests for students to change buses in order to visit friends after school cannot be honored since most of our school buses are at or near capacity. However, if they will be picked up as car riders or walkers, a note will be needed from both sending and receiving parents.



Any individual, to whom children may be dismissed, must be identified on the *Emergency Information Card*. Please write additional names and phone numbers on the reverse side of the card if necessary. Students will be released only to those individuals whose names are on the emergency card. If for any reason the adult picking up your child is not listed on the emergency card, you must send a dated note to the office of this change. The adult will need to show a form of identification to the staff at the school.

DISMISSAL

We have several dismissal options on a typical school day. All forms of dismissal are supervised by at the Stony Creek staff. Walkers (Our walkers are dismissed from the front doors closest to our kindergarten classrooms.) Parent Pick-up (Parents picking up a child at the end of the day should pull their car into the parking lot closest to the center of the building. Parents wait their turn to move up to the top of the horseshoe driveway and wait for their child to be dismissed by our staff. Bus (Students will be escorted to their busses by members of our staff.) YMCA (Students attending our After School Program will be dismissed to the program by their teachers.)



EARLY PICK-UP

If you need to pick up your child prior to dismissal time (3:15 PM), you need to come to the main office to do so. Such pickups should take place no later than 2:55 PM. After this time, bus arrivals and student dismissal routines go into effect, and it is too disruptive to make a change.



FAMILY TRAVEL

Our district attendance policy allows for up to 5 days of non-sponsored school travel. As with any absence, you must notify the school in writing of your intention to remove your child from school for this purpose. You will receive an acknowledgement of this request from my office. Remember, however, a total of 10 or more days of absence (including days for non-sponsored school travel) in one school year is considered excessive and cause for concern.

SCHOOL HOURS

Full Day of School

7:45 AM	Early Morning Music Students Drop Off Time
8:20 AM	Drop Off Time for All Students K-5 Begins
8:35 AM	Official Start of School Day
3:15 PM	Official End of School Day



Early Closing Day of School (No Lunch or Recess on Early Closing Days.)

7:45 AM	Early Morning Music Students Drop Off Time
8:20 AM	Drop Off Time for All Students K-5
8:35 AM	Official Start of School Day
11:50 AM	Official End of School Day

LUNCH

Children may purchase a hot lunch. The cost of a lunch is \$2.55. For those who bring their lunches, milk may be purchased for \$.50. Lunch menus are published monthly on the district website and a hard copy will be sent home with your child. Please refer to the Chartwells menu for available lunch and snack options throughout the month. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to see that the child has the money to purchase lunch or to bring a nourishing meal.

The Wissahickon School District utilizes a Point of Purchase computerized system in the cafeteria. Money for lunches and snacks may be sent to school on a weekly or monthly basis. The money will be entered into the student's cafeteria account. All students will be given a PIN Number to access their accounts at lunchtime. Snacks and lunch funds should be sent to school by check, payable to "WSD Cafeteria Account". Please include your child's name on the check. Parents and guardians are encouraged to use the Point of Purchase system because it greatly increases the efficiency of the lunch lines and reduces the incidence of lost or missing money. Parents are encouraged to make on-line payments at www.mynutrikids.com.



PTO FAMILY DIRECTORY

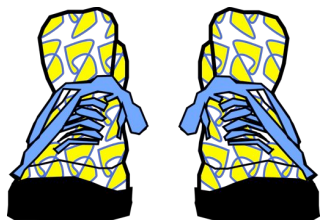
We are looking for 100% participation in this year's PTO Family Directory. This Directory will provide contact information for our families. This directory will be published in late September or early October, and will not be re-published later in the year. This is the one resource parents like in order to contact other families for birthday parties, play dates, and the like. Information regarding the PTO Family Directory will be sent home at the start of the school year.

SNACKS

Snacks must be simple and healthy according to our district wellness policy. Our teachers will encourage healthy snack choices. Generally, our students eat their snacks while engaged in some productive learning activity. Once again, healthy snacks are strongly encouraged.

SNEAKERS

Our students enjoy an active day at school. Each and every day our students enjoy a short recess at the start of the school day (8:20-8:30 AM) as well as their lunch time recess (20-25 minutes). Given this level of activity and physical education classes on some days, sneakers are the expected footwear at Stony Creek.





TARDY

If your child arrives late to school, you must park your car and accompany your child into the main office. You need to sign your child in with a member of our office staff.

TheCURRENT and THIS WEEK AT STONY CREEK

School newsletters are published on a regular basis to share news and important information about our school community. Stony Creek's TheCURRENT is the monthly home and school newsletter, and it is posted on our school website; it is also sent you electronically if you sign up with School Messenger (see below) and provide an e-mail address. This Week at Stony Creek is an electronic publication e-mailed usually on Sunday evenings providing important information related to the coming week. Contact Tracy Suchodolski at such991@comcast.net in order to be added to the e-mail distribution list.

School Messenger

Emergency Notification System for WSD

School Messenger is the automated telephone system that our district uses in order to contact families with important announcements and emergency notifications. Using this system, parents are able to customize the way that they receive these important notifications. Make sure that you are enrolled in School Messenger and that you keep your information updated.

How do I register with School Messenger?

- Enter the following URL into your web browser: <https://contactme.schoolmessenger.com>
- Click the **Sign Up Now** link near the bottom of the page.
- You will be taken to the Sign Up page where you will need to enter a valid e-mail address, a password, your name, and zip code. You'll use your e-mail address and the password you enter here to sign in later. Check **E-Mail Me** when I have a new phone message if you would like to receive an e-mail message each time there is a new message in your mailbox. Click **Create Account** when you are done.
- Next, you should check your e-mail. There will be an Account Activation e-mail from contactme@schoolmessenger.com which contains a link to activate your account. This link will take you to a confirmation page where you must enter your password in order to activate your account. If you don't see the e-mail, check your Junk Mail and spam folders.
- Once you've activated your account, you're ready to add your child(ren) to the account. You should have received an individualized letter for each child. Don't discard the additional letter(s) until you have added them to your account. Click the link on the main page and add your child's student ID and Activation Code.
- When you have finished adding your child(ren) to the account, you will be brought to the **Edit Contact Details** page where you can simply check which types of messages you would like to receive and at which phone number or e-mail address. Make sure that you click **Save** when you are done making changes. If you have other children in the district, you will be able to add them to the same Contact Manager account as soon as you receive their Student ID and Activation Code.

Important Note: *You should only give your work number if it directly dials to your desk. The system is not able to dial an extension if an auto-attendant answers or ask for you if a receptionist answers. Therefore, you should only provide a work number if it is a direct line.*